

HunterEdRequirements

Hunter Education Exemption Quick Reference — All 50 States — 2025

■ Birth Year Exemptions

■ Military Waivers

■ Deferral Programs

■ Apprentice Licenses

BIRTH YEAR EXEMPTIONS — Born BEFORE This Year: Hunter Ed NOT Required

Before	Notes
	Very broad — pre-1949 only
1975	Exact date matters

State	Born Before	Notes
Maine	1976	
Michigan	1960	
Minnesota	1980	
Mississippi	1972	
Missouri	1967	
Nebraska	1977	
Nevada	1960	
North Dakota	1961	
Oklahoma	1972	
S. Carolina	1979	
Tennessee	Sept 2, 1969	Exact date
Texas	Sept 2, 1971	Exact date
Washington	1972	
Wisconsin	1973	

State	Ed Required For	Notes
Arizona	Under 14 big game only	Adults exempt
California	All first-timers	No birth-yr exemption
Connecticut	All first-timers	
Hawaii	All first-timers	
Maryland	All first-timers	
Massachusetts	All first-timers	
Montana	All first-timers	No birth-yr cutoff
New Hampshire	14+ first-timers	Under 14 exempt
New Jersey	All first-timers	
New Mexico	Under 18 only	Adults exempt
New York	All first-timers	Online OK adults 18+

State	Ed Required For
North Carolina	All first-timers
Oregon	Under 14 big game only
Pennsylvania	All first-timers
Rhode Island	All first-timers
South Dakota	Under 14 big game only
Utah	All first-timers
Vermont	All first-timers
Virginia	All first-timers
West Virginia	All first-timers
Wyoming	All first-timers

MILITARY & VETERAN EXEMPTIONS — Full Hunter Ed Waiver Available

Exemption	Documentation
Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Full waiver	DD-214 or military orders
Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Full waiver	Military ID or DD-214
Full waiver	Military ID or discharge papers
Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Full waiver	DD-214 or active orders
Full waiver — MD resident	Military ID or DD-214
Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID

State	Exemption	Documentation
Montana	Full waiver + Nat. Guard	DD-214 or current orders
Nevada	Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
N. Carolina	Full waiver + spouses	DD-214 or current orders
Oklahoma	Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Pennsylvania	Full waiver	DD-214 or current orders
S. Carolina	Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Tennessee	Full waiver	DD-214 or active orders
Virginia	Full waiver + Nat. Guard	Military ID, orders, DD-214
W. Virginia	Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID
Wyoming	Full waiver	DD-214 or military ID

State	Ed Waiver?	Notes
Texas	No ed waiver	Free license for first-timers
California	No ed waiver	Free license for first-timers
Michigan	No ed waiver	Fee discounts available
New York	No ed waiver	Free license for first-timers
Minnesota	No ed waiver	Fee discounts available

DEFERRAL & APPRENTICE LICENSE PROGRAMS — Hunt Before Completing Hunter Ed

State	Deferral?	Apprentice Uses	Key Rule
Texas	Apprentice only	Once lifetime	Licensed adult 17+; same group
Florida	Yes — 1 season	Once	Licensed adult 18+; complete by June 30
Georgia	Yes — 1 season	Deferral-linked	Licensed adult 21+ required
Tennessee	Yes — adults 18+	Deferral	NO supervision required for adults
Michigan	Yes — adults 17+	Deferral	Licensed adult; within arm's reach
Pennsylvania	Yes — youth 16-17	UNLIMITED seasons	Best program nationally; from age 7
Ohio	Yes — first-timers	Annual deferral	Licensed adult 18+
Virginia	Yes — 1 season	Annual deferral	Licensed adult 18+

State	Deferral?	Apprentice Uses	Key Rule
N. Carolina	Yes — 1 season	Deferral	Licensed adult 18+
Colorado	Apprentice only	Once lifetime	Licensed adult 18+; arm's reach
Wisconsin	No formal deferral	2 seasons apprentice	Licensed adult 18+
Kansas	No formal deferral	2 years apprentice	Licensed adult 18+
Missouri	No formal deferral	Twice lifetime	Licensed adult 18+
Montana	No formal deferral	Once lifetime	Licensed adult 18+
New York	Yes — once	Apprentice once	Licensed adult 18+